

**Thomas Jefferson to William Short, June 19, 1817,  
from the Thomas Jefferson and William Short  
Correspondence, Transcribed and Edited by Gerard W.  
Gawalt, Manuscript Division, Library of Congress**

**Thomas Jefferson to William Short**

Monticello June 19. 17.

Dear Sir

Mr. Higginbotham having mortgaged to you the lands he purchased as a security for the payments stipulated, & those payments being made, he thinks there should be a release of the mortgage on your part for which purpose I inclose you an instrument with a note of the manner of acknowledgement.

My letters from France inform me of the death of the Abbé Rochon, and that of his daughter a few hours before him. He left an unfinished history of steam-boats. A company is formed there to settle an agricultural and commercial colony on the coast of Senegal. Two vessels with emigrants for that destination had already sailed & a third was ready to sail. The tide of military emigrants was setting chiefly to S. America; whether to increase the happiness of that people or not, is still a problem. I have lately had a visit from Baron Quanette, from whom I have received much interesting information as to the proceedings while the emperor of Russian and K. of Prussia were there he appears to me a very sensible, well informed and able man, neither a friend to their late military tyrant nor to the ancien regime, but wishing and hoping for a limited monarchy and representative legislature. I heard a critique commenced in some of the French journals on Franklin's letters on political grounds.

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We have nothing here worth communicating to you. We are endeavoring to establish a college in Albemarle, if we can get sufficient funds; but our chief hope is to draw to it the University which the state proposes. and for which liberal funds are provided. I set out for Bedford in a few days to be about 3 weeks and propose also to pass the months of August & September there. Ever and affectionately yours, Th. Jefferson

RC (Jefferson Papers, DLC)